

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for the containment of network communication,~~ comprising ~~the steps of:~~

~~determining whether one or more usage conditions are met;~~

intercepting a connection ~~message~~ **request to establish a communication conduit between a client and a server;** and

determining whether one or more usage conditions are met, wherein if at least one of the conditions is not met, then the connection request is not sent to the server, and wherein the conditions that would permit the connection request to be sent include a persistent usage condition in which a client to server conduit was previously authorized and a designated time interval for the persistent usage condition has not lapsed;

~~conditionally sending, based on the one or more usage conditions, the connection message from a client to a server over a communication conduit.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of forwarding the connection ~~message~~ **request** to the server over the communication conduit when the one or more usage conditions are met.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 2, wherein the determining step comprises identifying a first network address of the server, a second network address of the client and a port number of the communication conduit.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 3, further comprising the step of sending a plurality of DHCP reply messages for binding a first address of a first host to a second address of a second host, the plurality of DHCP reply messages sent to a third host, the server residing on the first host, and the client residing on the third host.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein the determining step comprises (a) obtaining a confirmation from a human, and (b) determining whether the communication conduit was used by the client prior to the client's sending the connection message request, ~~or (c) determining whether the client sent the connection message within an authorized time window.~~

6. (Original) The method of Claim 2, wherein the determining step comprises obtaining a confirmation from a human, wherein the human (a) is associated with the client or (b) has administrative privilege.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein the determining step comprises (a) determining whether the client used the communication conduit at any time prior to the client's sending the connection ~~message~~ request, (b) determining whether the client used the communication conduit within a specific time-window prior to the client's sending the connection ~~message~~ request, or (c) determining whether the client used the communication conduit within a pre-determined context prior to the client's sending the connection ~~message~~ request, wherein the pre-determined context comprises a TCP connection or a session.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 2, wherein the determining step comprises determining whether a configuration of the client comprises one or more pre-determined data.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein the determining step comprises determining whether a repository comprises one or more authorization data pertinent to the connection ~~message~~ request.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 2, wherein the determining step comprises authorizing temporary usage of the communication conduit, wherein the temporary usage expires unless administrative approval is obtained (a) within a pre-determined time-window, (b) before the client sends a pre-determined number of messages, or (c) before the client uses a pre-determined number of distinct contexts, wherein a context comprises a TCP connection or a session.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein the determining step comprises determining whether the connection ~~message~~ request is sent within a pre-determined time-window.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein the pre-determined time-window comprises one or more weekday peak usage hours.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of discarding the connection ~~message~~ request when the one or more usage conditions are not met.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 13, wherein the determining step comprises identifying a first network address of the client, a second network address of the server and a port number of the communication conduit.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of logging a result of the determining step.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of notifying a system-administrator of a result of the determining step.

17. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for the containment of network communication,~~
comprising ~~the steps of:~~

~~determining whether one or more service conditions are met;~~

intercepting a service-initiation request to establish a communication conduit between
a client and a server; and

determining whether one or more usage conditions are met, wherein if at least one of
the conditions is not met, then the request is not sent to the server, and wherein the
conditions that would permit the request to be sent include a persistent usage condition in
which a client to server conduit was previously authorized and a designated time interval for
the persistent usage condition has not lapsed;

18. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 17, further comprising the step of
forwarding the service-initiation request to the server over the network when the one or more
service-conditions are met.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein the determining step comprises
identifying a first network address of the server and a second network address of the client.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 19, further comprising the step of sending a
plurality of DHCP reply messages for binding a first address of a first host to a second address of
a second host, the plurality of DHCP reply messages sent to a third host, the server residing on
the first host, and the client residing on the third host.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 18, wherein the determining step
comprises (a) obtaining a confirmation from a human or (b) determining whether the client
sent the service-initiation request within an authorized time window.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 18, wherein the determining step comprises identifying a request-type indicated by the service-initiation request.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 18, wherein the determining step comprises determining whether a second service-initiation request of a same request-type as the service-initiation request (a) was forwarded to the server at any time prior to the client's sending the service-initiation request (b) was forwarded to the server within a pre-determined time-window prior to the client's sending the service-initiation request, or (c) was forwarded to the server within a specific context, wherein a context comprises a TCP connection or a session.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 18, wherein the determining step comprises determining whether a second service-initiation request of the one or more pre-determined request-types (a) was forwarded to the server at any time prior to the client's sending the service-initiation request, (b) was forwarded to the server within a pre-determined time-window prior to the client's sending the service-initiation request, or (c) was forwarded to the server within a specific context, wherein a context comprises a TCP connection or a session.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 17, further comprising the step of discarding the service-initiation request when the one or more usage conditions are not met.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 25, wherein the determining step comprises identifying a first network address of the client and a second network address of the server.

27. (Original) The method of Claim 17, further comprising the step of logging a result of the determining step.

28. (Original) The method of Claim 17, further comprising the step of notifying a system-administrator of a result of the determining step.

29. (Currently Amended) A system for the containment of network communication, comprising:

a communication proxy for intercepting a connection ~~message~~ **request** from a client to a server over a communication conduit;

wherein the communication proxy is programmed to determine whether one or more usage conditions are met, and wherein **if at least one of the conditions is not met, then the connection request is not sent to the server, and wherein the conditions that would permit the connection request to be sent include a persistent usage condition in which a client to server conduit was previously authorized and a designated time interval for the persistent usage condition has not lapsed** ~~the communication proxy (a) forwards the connection message to the server over the communication conduit when the one or more usage conditions are met, or (b) discards the connection message when the one or more usage conditions are not met.~~

30. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 29, wherein the communication proxy (a) obtains a confirmation from a human, **and** (b) determines whether the communication conduit was used by the client prior to the ~~client's~~ **client** sending the connection ~~message~~ **request**, ~~or (c) determines whether the client sent the connection message within an authorized time window.~~

31. (Original) The system of Claim 29, wherein the communication proxy identifies a first network address of the server, a second network address of the client and a port number of the communication conduit.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 31, further comprising the step of sending a plurality of DHCP reply messages for binding a first address of a first host to a second

address of a second host, the plurality of DHCP reply messages sent to a third host, the server residing on the first host, and the client residing on the third host.

33. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 31, wherein the communication proxy resides in a network element, the network element in a communication path between the client and the server.

34. (Original) The system of Claim 31, wherein the communication proxy and the client reside on the same host.

35. (Original) The system of Claim 31, wherein the communication proxy and the server reside on the same host.

36. (Currently Amended) A system for the containment of network communication, comprising:

a service-proxy for intercepting a service-initiation request from a client to a server over a network;

wherein the service-proxy is configured to determine whether one or more service-conditions are met, and wherein **if at least one of the conditions is not met, then the request is not sent to the server, and wherein the conditions that would permit the request to be sent include a persistent usage condition in which a client to server conduit was previously authorized and a designated time interval for the persistent usage condition has not lapsed** ~~the service-proxy (a) forwards the service-initiation request to the server over the network when the one or more service-conditions are met or (b) discards the service-initiation request when the one or more service-conditions are not met.~~

37. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 36, wherein the service-proxy (a) obtains a confirmation of the one or more service-conditions being met from a human or (b) is programmed to determine whether the client set the service-initiation request within an authorized time-window.

38. (Original) The system of Claim 36, wherein the service-proxy identifies a first network address of the server and a second network address of the client.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 38, further comprising the step of sending a plurality of DHCP reply messages for binding a first address of a first host to a second address of a second host, the plurality of DHCP reply messages sent to a third host, the server residing on the first host, and the client residing on the third host.

40. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 38, wherein the service-proxy resides in a network element, the network element in a communication path between the client and the server.

41. (Original) The system of Claim 38, wherein the service-proxy and the client reside on the same host.

42. (Original) The system of Claim 38, wherein the service-proxy and the server reside on the same host.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 36, wherein the service-proxy determines a request-type indicated by the service-initiation request.